poorer sections of society, as subsidised SKO is made available to them under public Distribution System through Ration Cards. On account of introduction of parallel marketing of SKO now, in the open market more subsidised SKO would be available, through public Distribution system, for poorer section of society.

(c) The amount of subsidey provided through the pricing mechanism during the past 3 years as under:-

(Rs ./Crores)

1990-91	**2334**
1991-92	**2364**
1992-93 (Estimated)	**3276**

Adulteration of Diesel with Kerosene Oil

1125. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that kerosene oil was used for adulterating diesel oil to the extent of 90 per cent and

(b) if so, what are the measures Government are taking to check the adulteration of diesel with kerosepe oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Complaints of adulteration of diesel oil with kerosene are received from time to time.

(b) The following measures are taken to check adulteration in petroleum products:-

i) regular and surprise inspection by Oil Company officials;
ii) density check under MS & HSD Control Order, 1990;
iii) doping of kerosene with furfural at selected locations;
iv) surprise inspections by mobile laboratories; and
v) surprise inspections of retails outlets by State Government officials.

Petrol and Diesel Outlets in the Country

1126. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many petrol and diesel outlets are being run by different oil companies in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the companies are losing heavily; and

(c) if not, what are the profits and losses of Government run diesel and petrol outlets in the country in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Out of 16 retail outlets in operation, owned and operated by Oil Companies, one has been commissioned recently and the working results are not yet finalised. Of the remaining, 8 outlets are making profits and 7 are losing. Profits earned by these outlets together during the last 3 years are as under:—

(Rs ./lakhs)

1989-90	**13.34**
1990-91	**28**
1991-92	**18.88**

Proposal to Decanalise import of LPG and Kerosene

1127. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 16th February, 1993 regarding the proposal to decanalise LPG and kerosene imports;

(b) if so, what are the details;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) In order to increase the availability of LPG and Kerosene in the country over and above what is available at controlled prices, Government has decided to allow their import and sale at market prices by private agencies. Measures to prevent diversion of lower priced products have also been devised in the scheme.

Production cost of LPG Cylinder

1128. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per piece cost of production of LPG cylinders in India vis-a-vis in other developed and developing countries;

(b) what is the import content of LPG cylinder per piece;

(c) amount of subsidy involved in marketing each LPG cylinder; and

(d) the steps taken to lower the cost of production of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Such information relating to LPG cylinders in other developed and developing countries is not maintained. LPG cylinders in this country are purchased from approved cylinder manufacturers and the current basic purchase prices are as follows:

(1) Cylinders manufactured from SAIL Steel—Rs. 577.68 Cylinder.

(2) Cylinders manufactured from TISCO Steel-Rs. 595.78 Cylinder.

(b) Except in the case of cylinders manufactured from imported steel, there is no import content in the cylinders manufactured from SAIL and TISCO steel.

(c) Government do not provide any subsidy in the marketing of unfilled LPG cylinders.

(d) The improvement in the quality of indigenous steel, and technological upgradation in processing techniques has helped in containing the costs.

तेल निर्यात पर गतिरोध

1129. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठरः क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में तेल निर्यातक देशों के संगठन, "ओपेक" के सदस्यों के बीच कच्चे तेल की कीमतें स्थिर रखने के लिए तेल बाजार को हर रोज दस लाख बैरल तेल का निर्यात घटाने संबंधी समझौते को लेकर गतिरोध बना हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस गतिरोध को समाप्त करने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(ग) भारत पर इस समझौते का क्या प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) से (ग) इस आशय की रिपोर्टें प्रकाशित हुई हैं। यह तेल उत्पादक देशों के निकाय का एक आंतरिक मामला है।

Construction of Trunk Pipeline by GAIL

1130. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trunk pipeline in Assam will be constructed by G.A.I.L. and subsidiary distribution line will be constructed by Assam Gas Company;

(b) whether any feasibility report prepared by the GAIL for trunk pipeline has been approved; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.